Mr SPEAKER

HIS SPEECH TO HIS *MAJESTIE*,

IN THE HIGH COVRT OF PARLIAMENT, the fifth of *November*. 1640.

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MASTER
SPEAKERS SPEECH
IN THE HIGH COVRT
OF PARLIAMENT, TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT Majeſty, the fifth of *November*. 1640.

Moſt gracious and dread Soveraigne,

IN all ſubmiſſive humbleneſſe, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the houſe of Commons are here aſſembled, who taking along with them your gracious inclination, have according to their ancient liberties deſigned mee their Speaker.

Whereas I cannot but lament to thinke how great a miſt may overcaſt the hopes of this Seſſion, yet a note of favour to mee, who cannot but judge my ſelfe unfit for ſo great imployments, which ſo appeares to the whole World.

Many there be of deepe Iudgement, and ſad experience, that might have added luſture to this action, and

expedition to the worke, if they had pleaſed to have left me in that meane condition they found me.

Non mihi tacuiſſe nocet, Nocet eſſe Locutum.

And then might your Sacred and pious intentions have had their full advancement.

But is it yet too late? may I appeale to *Cæſar?*

Yes, I may, and in the loweſt poſture of humilitie I humbly beſeech your Sacred Majeſty to interpoſe your Royall authority to command a review of the houſe, for there were never more then now fitted for ſuch Imployments.

My Lord Keeper approves of him by his Majeſties direction.

Then he goes on,

It pleaſeth not your Sacred Majeſty to vouchſafe a change.

Actions of Kings are not to bee by me reaſoned. Therefore being imboldened by this Gracious approbation, give mee leave a little, Dread Soveraigne, to expreſſe my owne thoughts unto our gracious Lord the King.

I ſee before my eyes with admiration the Majeſtie of great Brittaine, the Glory of times, the Hiſtorie of honour, *CHARLES* the Firſt, in his forefront placed by diſcent of authority (King) ſetled by a long ſucceſſion, and continued to us by a pious and peacefull government,

On

On the one ſide the Monument of Glory, the Progenie of valiant and puiſſant Princes, the Queenes moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

On the other ſide, the hopes of poſterity, and joy of this Nation, thoſe Olive branches ſet round your tables, Emblems of peace to poſterity.

Here ſhine thoſe Lights and Lamps placed in a Mount, which attend your ſacred Majeſty as ſupreme head, and borrow from you the Splendor of their government.

There the true ſtate of Nobilitie, figures of Proweſſe and Magnanimity, fitted by their long contracted honour in their blood, for their Councell of Princes.

In the midſt of thoſe the Reverend Iudges, whither both parties (as to the Oracles of Iudgement and Iuſtice) may reſort, Ciſternes that hold faire waters, wherin each deviation, each wrinckle is diſcernable, and from thence (as from the Center) each crooked line ought to be levelled; The footſtoole of your Throne is fixed there, which renders you glorious to all poſteritie.

Here we the Knights; Citizens and Burgeſſes of the Commons houſe, at your royall feet, contracted from all parts of your Kingdome, Enſignes of obedience and humility, all theſe united by the law equally diſtributed, which cements this great body to the obedience of your Sacred Majeſtie;

And compells aſwell the hearts as the hands to contribute for the preſervation of your Majeſtie, and the Common intereſt.

Diſſipates the Invaders of the Church and common wealth, and diſcoyers the Impoſtures, but (give mee

leave dread Soveraigne) knits the Crowne to the Sacred Temples, and frees Majeſtie from the Interpretation of miſdoing.

Amongſt theſe this great Councell is moſt Soveraigne againſt the diſtempers of this Nation.

Were they infeſted at Sea, troubled at home, or invaded from abroad, here was the Sanctuary of refuge, hither was the reſort, and no other way found for a foundation of peace.

It is reported of *Conſtantine* the great, that he accompted his Subjects purſe his Exchequer, and ſo it is.

Subtile inventions may picke it out, but nothing can open it but a Parliament; which lets in the eye of Soveraignety upon the publique maladies of the State, and vigilancy for the preſervation of our ancient liberties; for this we neede not ſearch into antiquity, looke but a little backe, there we ſhall ſee our juſt liberties gratiouſly confirmed by your moſt ſacred Majeſty.

And is our happineſſe ſhut up in the remembrance of times paſt only? No.

Thoſe Grations, expreſſions lately falne from your ſacred lips, as hony from the combe, make glad the hearts of your people.

So that now we doe more then promiſe to our ſelves a large and free conſideration of the waies to compoſe the diſtempers of theſe Kingdomes, and then preſent them to your royall hand for perfection.

And ſuch ſhall be our deportment, that as wee ſhall labour the continuance of our liberties, ſo ſhall wee carry a high regard to preſerve that Soveraigne power wherewith your Majeſtie is inveſted for the preſervation of your Kingdome, and to render your ſacred Majeſtie

jeſtie terrible to the Nations, and glorious at home.

Are theſe the fruits we have enjoyed by Parliaments? we cannot then but wonder at that horrid invention in this place projected, *Monſtrum horrendum, informe ingens,* but, the Lord be thanked, *Cui lumen ademptum eſt.* Can this receive a *Palliation?* Men, Fathers, and Brethren, and all at one blaſt; no reverence to ſacred Bones of Princes? were we not all in a lumpe by them intended to bee offered u p to *Moloch* *Novem.* 5.

Let us never forget this dayes ſolemnization (But whither?) It is too much boldneſſe to preſume longer on your Majeſties grace and goodneſſe; and therefore for the better expedition of this ſervice; Wee humbly deſire;

1. That our ſelves and ſervants may obtaine freedome from arreſts of their perſons and goods.

2. That we may have free liberty of ſpeech without confinement, with a full and free debate.

3. That your Majeſtie will vouchſafe our repaire to your ſacred perſon upon matters of importance, according to the ancient priviledges of the houſe.

That with ſuch alacrity wee may now proceede to manifeſt to the world, that our retirements were to reinforce a greater unity and duty, & to endeavour a ſweet violence which may compell (pardon dread Soveraigne the word Compell) your Majeſtie to the love of Parliaments.

And

And thus God will have the honour, your ſacred Majeſtie ſplendor, the Kingdome ſafety, and all our votes ſhall paſſe, That your ſacred Majeſty may long, long, long, reigne over us; And let all the people ſay, Amen.

(***)

FINIS.